GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Andhra Pradesh Forest Department – Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sri E.V. Ratna Ravi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Bhakarapet Section, Kadapa Range Kadapa (T) Division under rule 24 r/w rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991– Punishment of "withholding of 5% cut in pension for (2) years and the suspension period treated as not on duty" - Imposed - Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Sec.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.60 **Dated.05.09.2023.**

Read the following:

1. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P. Letter Ref.no.8657/2018/A&DC-3(ii), dated 02.02.2022.
2. Memo.No.1417/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 16.09.2022.
3. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Letter Rc.no.8657/2018/A&DC-3, dated 14.11.2022.
4. Memo.No.1417/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 24.03.2023.
5. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.no.8657/2018/A&DC-3, dated 02.06.2023.
6. Letter.No.1417/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 27.06.2023.
7. From the Secretary, APPSC, Vijayawada, File No.GAD03-APPSC0DCC/69/2023-DC.SEC-APPSC (Computer No.2144610), dated 09.08.2023.

ORDER:

In the Letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has informed that an Article of Charge was issued to Sri E.V. Ratna Ravi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.) earlier Bhakarapet Section, Kadapa Range of Kadapa (T) Division under Rule 20 of A.P.C.S. (CC & A) Rules, 1991 in Rc.no.1891/2018/M1(i), dated 08.10.2018, on the following count:-

Article-I	"That Sri E.V. Ratna Ravi, Deputy Range Officer during his tenure of working as In-charge Section Officer, Bhakarapet Section of Kadapa Range of Kadapa (T) Division booked the expenditure irregularly without actually executing the Nursery works at Rajeev Smruthi Vanam and Kanumalopalli under MGNREGS Scheme during 2017-18 which resulted in mis-appropriation of Government Funds to a tune of Rs.6,08,800/- by submitting false and fabricated vouchers, M. Books and in violation of Articles 5, 273, 294, 300, 301, and 302 of the A.P. Financial Code."

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of AoC on 16.10.2018 and submitted his written defence statement on 20.10.2018. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests& HoFF, A.P., Guntur appointed the APCCF/ Conservator of Forests, Kurnool as Common Inquiry Authority and the DFO., Kadapa (T) Division as Presenting Officer in the reference Proc.no.8657/2018/Vig-1(i) &(ii), dated 27.12.2019 respectively, for conducting regular enquiry.

P.T.O.

3. The Inquiry Officer (i.e., CF., Kurnool) has submitted the findings along with the connected case record in the Rc.no.1891/2018/M1, dated 20.02.2021, wherein the Inquiry Officer concluded as follows:-

Findings:-

On the basis of documentary and oral evidence adduced in the case before me and in view of the reasons given above, I hold that the following is my final conclusion on the Charge levelled against the Charged Officer Sri E. V. Ratna Ravi, Dy.Range Officer (Retd.).

"The Charged Officer not completed the works as per the schedule but subsequently completed it without deviation. The Charged Officer is responsible for the delay occurred in execution of works and to that extent the charge is proved". However, no misappropriation of funds occurred".

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests& HoFF, A.P., Guntur communicated the findings of the Inquiry Officer to the Charged Officer in the Ref.no.8657/2018/A&DC-3, dated 08.04.2021(FN), for submission of further defence. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of the Final Notice on 17.05.2021 and submitted his further defence statement dated 26.06.2021, wherein he did not submit any new / fresh / valid points.

5. Since the Charged Officer, Sri E.V. Ratna Ravi, Deputy Range Officer has retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.12.2018, disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule-9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

6. After careful examination of the entire matter, it has been provisionally decided to impose a penalty of "withholding of 5% cut in pension for (2) years and the suspension period treated as not on duty" against Sri E.V. Ratna Ravi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Bhakarapet Section, Kadapa Range of Kadapa (T) Division under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, in the Memo 4th read above show cause notice has been issued to the charged officer. The charged officer acknowledged the receipt of the Show-cause notice on 25.04.2023 and submitted his explanation on 26.04.2023. In his explanation he has stated that he shall obey the provisional decision of the Government for imposing a penalty of "withholding of 5% cut in pension for (2) years and the suspension period treated as not on duty" and requested to issue final orders in the disciplinary case and release the final pensionary benefits.

7. After careful examination of the issue, the Government have decided to confirm the provisional decision to impose a penalty of "withholding of 5% cut in pension for (2) years and the suspension period treated as not on duty" against Sri E.V. Ratna Ravi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Bhakarapet Section, Kadapa Range of Kadapa (T) Division under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

8. On communication, in the letter 7th read above, the Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada, has informed that Commission agreed with the proposal to impose a penalty of "withholding of 5% cut in pension for (2) years and the suspension period treated as not on duty" against Sri E.V. Ratna Ravi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Bhakarapet Section, Kadapa Range Kadapa (T) Division and advised accordingly.

(Contd.P.-3)

9. After careful examination of the entire matter, Government hereby order to impose a penalty of "withholding of 5% cut in pension for (2) years and the suspension period treated as not on duty" against Sri E.V. Ratna Ravi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Bhakarapet Section, Kadapa Range Kadapa (T) Division under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri E.V. Ratna Ravi, Deputy Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Bhakarapet Section, Kadapa Range Kadapa (T) Division (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF,A.P., Mangalagiri)
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur. w.e
(Connected record File.No.1891/2018/M1, CF pages-1300).
Copy to
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The OSD to M (Energy, EFS&T, Mines & Geology).
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The PS to the Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1755590)

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER